

## **ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Minutes of the meeting – October 3, 2016**

President Rosanne Fisher called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. There were 34 people present.

**Secretary's Report** –The minutes of the September meeting were approved as read with two corrections noted.

**Treasurer's Report** – The report for the month of September was approved. The balances as of end-September were \$8,206.69 in checking and \$40,200.29 in the Building Fund accounts (report attached). Income came from refunds for supplies that were not used at Eliot Festival Day and proceeds of \$344.07 from that day, along with bank interest. Expenditures included rent, electricity, donations and supplies.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Directors** - The Board will be meeting in October to finalize the proposed by-laws for the November meeting.

**Programs** – In light of the election taking place in November, the program next month will be Presidential facts, and this will be a quiz with prizes.

**Collection** – Julie Johnson reported that we received 2 old books from the Remicks, one geography book dating back to 1851 and one music book from 1872. That evening she set out a display of hats from our collection in the downstairs storage area. Scott Vetter has donated 3 school desks from Ed Vetter's collection which we will keep for parts.

**Grants** – Helen Goransson reported that she received word that the Fabulous Find will let us know about the status of our grant but they said they support the needs presented in our application.

**Nominations Committee** – The committee will be meeting to prepare a slate of officers for our vote in December.

**Building** – Paul Johnson reported that Jan Cerabona donated a dehumidifier for the storage area and it was 80% installed and would be completed the following Wednesday. Thanks to Jan for the donation.

**Fundraising** – Margie Brown reported that we made some money selling hot drinks at the Eliot fireworks, but there was a meager turnout in general to that event, probably because it was the same night as a Marshwood football game. However, the Eliot Festival Day table went over well and we sold our goodies and signed one new lifetime member.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Zip Zamarchi made a motion to send a letter to Green Acre commending them on the relocation of the electric trolley depot building to their campus. This was seconded by Denny Lentz. We will thank them for preserving this historical item which is located now at the road not far from where there once stood a railroad building. The motion passed.

Halloween-themed delicious refreshments were provided by Ruth Drake-Benedict. Cindy and Denny Lentz are on deck for refreshments next month.

The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

## **PROGRAM**

We had an interactive presentation by members of the York River Study Committee – Jack Murphy, Stefan Claesson, Chutt Ott and Jennifer Hunter. The committee was formed to work with community members to develop a York River Watershed Management Plan and evaluate the suitability of a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the river and its tributaries. Members of the committee represent York, South Berwick, Kittery and Eliot. We learned more about the York River watershed's historic and natural resources and features unique to Eliot, such as Punkintown and working farms. We saw some of what has been documented thus far and what additional research needs there are, and discussed possible management strategies to protect resources and opportunities to work together. Congress has provided this group with a grant of \$180K to work on and study this. This is not completed yet and is a three year study to see if it is a good fit for the 4 towns. They are looking into natural, historical and even archeological sites in the study area. This is a precious watershed whose health is important to us. This is also home to one of the earliest neo-paleo sites in the vicinity of the Neal Garrison at the edge of the watershed. There are 21 historic buildings in Eliot within the watershed limits. There is concern that the area will be overdeveloped and septic systems will harm the natural habitats. As more people encroach, there are other harmful effects, including overuse

of the natural areas and trash. This group is trying to get citizens to weigh the factors honestly, with factual information, with the long-term goal of passing along the watershed to the next generation in better condition, if possible.

Respectfully submitted, Helen Goransson, Secretary